



Thule Times



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2002

Commanders Action Line

Call ext 3400 if you
have questions
or comments about
Thule.

Congratulations!

**SrA Annalisa
Hernandez**

21st Space Wing
Airman
of the Quarter

July—Sept 02

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Rabies Notification

**Rabies has been
confirmed at Thule.**

**Do not feed wild animals
on base. If you see any
animals acting strangely,
contact Security Forces at
x3234.**



Dark Season Doesn't Mean Dark Times

By Ms. Lisbeth Skifte Base Hospital

We who live at Thule Air Base are of three different nationalities. We can call ourselves a small society in that there is no place like here in the world. The country is gold, the weather is getting cold, we live pretty much isolated, Thule Tripping is over, and we are all away from our families. Some of us are even away from our country and to compound things, we are going into a dark season, which means there is going to be dark all day and night.

Unfortunately there are some people, who get more or less sick of the dark season, some have a choice, some do not. Depression during the dark season is a common sickness. It is OK to be sad sometimes. Everybody get sad sometimes, but if your sadness gets to a depression, then you may need help. Getting help is not necessary medical, it is possible for you to do something about it yourself by checking out base activities. Getting to know other people is probably the best way you can keep depression to a minimum. Seek places where there are other people, seek happy people, maybe you will find one to talk to, one you are faithful to, one

who might help you. Just talking about anything can help a lot. The key is not to isolate yourself and don't try to drink your problems away. A small society also means that we should care about one another. Greenlandic, Danish or American, you always find somebody you like.

Otherwise as the chaplain wrote in the last Thule Times, "We are also blessed to be able to call upon the Good Lord." I agree with that, it is a big help, when you are having problems. I can also say it in another way, who or whatever you believe in or not, pretend like you are talking to someone "up there." This could also be a parent or sibling. Who ever it is, it will help, if not now, then later. As you all probably also know the church, chaplain, nurses and doctors are all available any time you need them. You have a choice on whether or not you get sick. To those who do not know how to get better, don't be ashamed or afraid to get help, any time. It is possible that you could be one of those who need medical help to get better. That is fine, there is room for everybody in Thule. There is always a way out for everybody. God bless us all.

Commander's Corner

By Lt Col Robert Orwig 821 SPTS/CC

With the dark season fast approaching, do you have your exercise program all laid out? Do you know what kind of program you are going to follow? Do you want to just lose weight or lose weight and tone up at the same time? Here is some guidance from three popular questions asked by someone that is planning to start a workout program.

Should I alternate between treadmill + other machines w/weights? You can if you like. Sometimes switching breaks up the flow of your workout, but you can try it and see what you think. Physiologically you'll get benefit from the entire aerobic machine whether you do them one at a time or switch. If you're asking about circuit training, which is spending 45 seconds to one minute at each machine and then moving rapidly to the next station, that technique is a popular and effective method of training and worth trying.

How often should I alternate and/or go to the gym? The guideline from the American College of Sports Medicine ACSM is to do 20-60 minutes of continuous activity, 3-5 times a week, at 60-90% of max heart rate. You can read more about the guidelines at the ACSM web site at www.acsm-msse.org / Click on "Position Stands" in the left margin, and then scroll down to "The Recommended Quantity and Quality of Exercise for Developing and Maintaining Cardio respiratory and Muscular Fitness, and Flexibility in Healthy Adults."

Should I alternate one day weights, next day machines? Try for 3-5 days of aerobic exercise and 2-3 days of weights. You can do them on the same day if you like. Some people prefer to do aerobic exercise before weights because they get warmed up from the aerobics, while others like to focus more on weightlifting so they do it first while they are fresh. Try it both ways and see what works best for you.

There is no one perfect workout, so you will need to experiment until you find what's most comfortable for you. As you go to the gym more, you will discover how your body responds and what you like to do. The important thing is to get started and see how it goes. If you have any questions, please come and ask me.

Thule Tidbits

Last Sunset — The last sunset was on 31 October at 1347 hrs and the Sun won't be back until 10-11 February 2003... **Services Movie Channels Realigned** — Ch 16 Services Info Channel, Ch 17 Movie Listings, Ch 18-23 Movies, Ch 24 Music Videos... **New Website for Thule Alums** — A former resident has started a discussion site for fellow former residents. The site is organized by year: www.thuleforum.com ... **High Demand for "Brushed" Nametag** — Due to the large demand, it may take longer than expected to get the new nametag. On Dec 1, members will be able to order the new nametag on www.aafes.com or at any military clothing sales store... **Tuition Assistance Changes** — Starting 1 Oct, the Air Force provides 100% assistance up to \$250 per semester hour with an annual ceiling of \$4500... **Movie Theater Back in Operation** — The projector in the Community Activity Center has been repaired. Weekly movies will resume on Thursdays and now the new coin operated popcorn machine is in operation... **Flag Football Tournament** — On 28 November, the Fitness Center will host a one-day Thanksgiving flag football tournament...

Commander's Trophy Points Update

ABG:	25
SFS:	20
OPS:	20
SPTS:	15

Standings as of 01 Nov 2002

Chaplain's Corner

By Ch, Capt Donald Bretz
821 ABG/HC

What to throw away? What to keep? Eventually each of us is going to have to make these decisions. These are several of the fundamental questions involved in moving on.

Even though these questions are fundamental, the process is not necessarily easy. Although someone else might easily make these decisions for me – they do not have the emotional attachment to my stuff:

- Certificates: 2001 Basketball Tournament, Danish Language Class, Boat Regatta, Polar Bear Swim (After all who doesn't have something to put on their wall?)
- Ceramics and wood working projects made at the hobby shop (The type of stuff parents hate to throw away – you know.)
- Bowling Pin – Thule Bowling League Trophy (I never had a

bowling trophy before!)

- Garnet laden rocks collected near BMEWS (Who knows - could be worth \$\$\$)

- Dinner glasses from the 821st ABG Dining Out and the GC 50th Anniversary (A person can never have too many glasses – right?)

- Reindeer antler pieces and a musk ox horn from hiking to Green Valley (Perfect conversation pieces don't you think?)

- Gifts sent from loved ones at home (Although I never could do hack-a-sack it still is nice to know I was sent one.)

- Boots worn out from climbing Dundas and Thule Trippin' (I they could talk they'd have some stories to smell.)

- Extra Clothes – that's easy what I don't need can go to the chapel for the Greenlandic Hunters

- Cleaning supplies etc .. – I guess

these can go to the new guy who'll be moving into my room.

Not all of the decisions about what to let go of and what to keep are this tangible. Relationships and memories come to mind. I have met a lot of wonderful people while at Thule – American, Danish, Greenlandic and Canadian. I have many fond memories of this unique place. But perhaps one memory/relationship will stay with me longer than any – a young local girl Maaja Hanson. Though she died as a result of burns, our brief encounter reminded me more than any in recent years of my vocation as a priest.

Although you may only have just arrived – or you may be a contractor and not planning on leaving for years – but we all leave this place. This is a place that requires us to say – Goodbye. May God bless you in your comings and in your goings – Goodbye! Farvell! Takus!

A Tribute to Father Bretz (in true rhyming fashion)

By Capt Brady Vaira 821 SPTS/OS

He drops a prayer like...wiggidy wiggidy wack,
Rapping Father Bretz always has our back,

While other rap stars are rhyming and stealin',
Captain Don Bretz is praying and healin',

On the softball field he never missed a ball,
Swinging the bat he always hit for the wall,

Out Thule Trippin', hunting Musk Ox,
Did he help Phil find those space rocks?

Riding a bike in the gym... he couldn't go wrong,
Look out France... we have a Thule Armstrong!

On Lake Sparum his raft stood the test,
Basketball? His team was one of the best,

He brought back our Friday game night,
To quote other rappers..."that was tight"

So to our top dog God guy,
it is now time to say good-bye,

On the freedom bird you must fly
Away from this 24 hour sky!

Rockin' Like A Storm 2

By Capt Brady Vaira 821 SPTS/OS

Maria Rose and Blue Horizon swept into town bringing with them gale force winds and rocking music. Performing at the TOW club, Community Activities Center and the base chapel, the band entertained Thule with rock, country and gospel favorites. A veteran Thule group they were treated to the full Thule experience when a Storm 2 blew into town with 100 knot winds and driving rain. The bad weather didn't dampen their moods and as always, they felt the Team Thule spirit. Bandleader Maria Rose said, "We always have a great time when we come to Thule, and were glad to see some familiar faces, as well as make some new friends. My highlights were making my usual new items at the hobby shop, (Lars is just about the best when it comes to helping create anything!), singing in the chapel and of course, the pizza party at the rec center. You also have just about one of the best dining halls anywhere!"

Band member Kevin Booth was equally impressed, saying, "This was my 2nd U.S.O. tour and both have been to Thule. As with the first tour, I am always impressed with the genuine hospitality of all the people at Thule, from the military to the cooks at the Dining Hall, everyone goes all out to make sure you enjoy your visit."

The Maria Rose and Blue Horizon took time out of their performing schedule to visit the troops in their work centers.



Completing their 10th overseas military tour, the band continues to provide soldiers and locals with their high quality music. Maria Rose said, "Our group would like to commend the many people at Thule who make things happen, and who try to keep a positive outlook. We all realize that this is quite an isolated, and sometimes very lonely place to be, but the morale has always seemed to be good when we've visited. The thing that means the most to all of us is when someone says 'Thanks for taking the time from your schedule to come and bring some music from home' . . . that should actually be the other way around - we have to send our thanks to all of you for the outstanding, and often over-looked work that you do everyday for the people here in the US."

Free Math Help

By Mr. Rolland Schearer ARCTEC/CMOC

Since arriving here at Thule in Oct ' 99, I have worked in Computer Maintenance at J-Site. A few years ago, my daughter and I began working on development of several resources to help people better their math skills. We are currently working on a special project that could be of benefit both to the personnel at Thule, as well as their families back home. This E-mail Math Tutoring course (which we hope will be ready sometime in Dec ' 02) will be offered at NO COST to those who enroll.

To start, an Assessment Quiz will be e-mailed to participants. Complete the quiz, as best you can, e-

mail the answers to my daughter, and she will e-mail the results back, along with a full explanation of the problems on the quiz. Then lessons will be sent. As each lesson is completed, the results will be e-mailed to the student, and the next lesson in the series will be sent.

Having seen tremendous results with these math approaches (as I have conducted private tutoring sessions over the last few years when at home on break), I am excited about the prospects of helping many people to improve their basic math skills.

Again, to enroll for the FREE E-mail Math Tutoring course (Dec ' 02, if all goes well), contact my daughter at : cypmathbible@aol.com and make sure we have your name and e-mail address. As the material is in preparation, nothing will be e-mailed until at least Dec ' 02.

The Marines Land at Thule!

By Capt Mike Darling
US Marine Corps,
Keflavik Naval Air
Station, Iceland

The Marines of Marine Corps Security Force Company, Keflavik, Iceland and the Flugbjorgunarsveitn or FBS, an Icelandic search and rescue team specializing in mountain and glacier rescues, recently conducted cold weather training in the areas surrounding Thule Air Base. Despite several questions regarding the sanity of the Marines, the training that took place both on the glacier near Camp Tuto and 'P' Mountain was an unequivocal success. With the help and instruction of the FBS the Marines gained the ability to not only survive in extreme temperatures but to be comfortable as well.

Training began near 'P' Mountain where the Marines learned basic bivouac routines (site selection, setting up tents, water point selection, etc.) and the basics of snowshoeing and

The Marine training included long marches over the icecap. The team accessed the Icecap from the ramps near Camp Tuto.



cross-country skiing. The skiing was a challenge considering that most of the Marines who had never put on a ski before and a few had never even seen snow. The training then progressed into cold weather mountaineering and crampon techniques. The Marines also did several ski treks

Erecting tents in the arctic environment was one of the many training activities that the Marines engaged in while in the Thule Defense Area.

with packs and sleds loaded with gear, the longest being 20 km.

The Marines received valuable training in a unique training area. We are indebted to the personnel at Thule Air Base for their support, especially the headquarters element, Dundas Dining facility, the North Star Inn, and the driver's who fulfilled our transportation requirements.



Tops in Blue

comes to the Top of the World

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM -- An evening of quality entertainment is generally a tough thing to find at forward-deployed locations. Tent cities are off the beaten path for most big-name celebrities, but not for the Air Force Tops In Blue. Recently, the Tops In Blue team of expeditionary entertainers took their show on the road to some very remote places. More than 2,000 military members deployed in Afghanistan and Pakistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom enjoyed an evening of music and dance Tops In Blue style.

"Our goal is simple," says Tom Edwards, director of Air Force Entertainment, "to reach as many people as possible and thank them for their commitment to serving our country." Tops In Blue consists of 26 active-duty Air Force personnel. Because it is made up of military members, the team can reach places most entertainers cannot go. The team is committed to go wherever American Forces are in need of a little touch of home, patriotism, and great entertain-

ment. "Each of the sites gave us phenomenal support," says Edwards, "which let us know how important it was for Tops In Blue to be there."

There are challenges involved in such remote places. "The set and equipment were drastically reduced, but the show was as energetic as ever," said Tech. Sgt. Dave Davis, a former Tops In Blue manager.

This one-of-a-kind program is operated by Headquarters Air Force Services Agency and is sponsored in part by AT&T and



With big smiles all around, A1C Enrique Mendoza, 821 SFS/SFOA won the Tops in Blue door prize. The prize was a generous \$200 gift certificate from AAFES.

First Command. Interested personnel can help support the mission by applying for Tops In Blue. Each year, a worldwide talent search is conducted, and the top performers are chosen as "expeditionary entertainers" for a one-year tour. Next year, Tops In Blue will celebrate 50 years of entertaining its Air Force family across the globe.



With help from many local members of Team Thule, Tops in Blue set up an entire stage in one of Thule's hangers.



Stormy Weather Strikes!

By Capt Todd Rupright
821 SPTS/CE

The morning of 14 October 02, Thule was greeted by our first Storm 2 of the season. Although the temperature was mild and the storm only lasted only 7 hours, the winds were devastating.

The winds coming over the icecap were steady at 70+ mph with gusts reaching over 110 mph. Those winds damaged several facilities, including the base gymnasium, fuels lab, and a storm shelter. The most severe damage occurred to two warehouses where the wind ripped entire sections of the roof right off and blew in an overhead door.

The civil engineers quickly assessed the damage and started making repairs immediately. Thule sustained over \$60K in damages.

The sky looks fairly daunting just before the storm hit that Monday morning. Luckily, Team Thule was ready since they had just completed a Storm exercise during September's Condor Crest exercise.



This photograph shows the wind damage to the roof of this warehouse. Not only was the damage to the roof a concern, but also the potential damage from flying debris.

(Above) Repairmen quickly get the task of repairing the base gymnasium. It was important to make repairs as soon as possible since another Storm could occur at any time.

Lajes Field SFS Veteran Ends 84 Years* of Service

By SSgt Beverly Isik
65 ABW Public Affairs

LAJES FIELD, Azores, Portugal -- Jake's an ornery old cuss who has walked the security forces beat here for most of his 84 years. His retirement was put on hold by Osama Bin Laden and a force protection posture that made security at Fort Knox look like a romp in the park.

Given his age, newly developed cataracts, hearing loss and having to hike his leg every few minutes, it's time for the old dog to turn in his badge.

As the only beagle assigned to the Air Force's K-9 corps, Jake's days as an explosives-sniffing dog come to an end Oct. 28 when he retires from service. He has a family ready to take care of him in his old age.

Tech Sgt. Steve Demers was able to keep Jake out of the Air Force dog house through a program implemented in January 2000 that allows dog lovers to adopt some military working dogs when they retire.

Jake's partner recalls time with his partner fondly. They were like Starsky and Pooch. Mel Gibson and Danny Rover. Andy Griffith and St. Bernard Fife. But it wasn't always smooth sailing for the Lajes crime-fighting duo.

More often than not - like when Woodard searched an area like the post office - he had to lift Jake onto shelves, and then set him back on the ground to see if he would respond.

And it takes a big dog - at least on the inside - to earn the respect of your peers when you're a beagle in a German Shepard's world.

"I don't think he even realizes he's so little," Woodard said. "He even gets bossy with the other dogs sometimes. We have an 85-pound German Shepard who's afraid of him."

Maybe some of that aggression stems from the fact that he has been waiting for more than a year to retire.

In the months that followed the Sept. 11 (2001) hijackings, Jake often pulled 14-hour days. Woodard said those long shifts were not Jake's idea of a dog's life.



Jake flashes his badge. Jake, the only beagle in the Air Force and assigned to the 65th Security Forces Squadron, Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, has been sniffing for explosives for more than 11 years and retires from service Oct. 28. (Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Michaud)

Some say it's lonely at the top - or the bottom in Jake's case. According to the Air Force Security Forces public affairs office, of the nearly 2,000 working dogs in the Department of Defense, Jake has been the only beagle in the Air Force. Imagine that: 11 years on the force and no one even speaks his language.

While most of his K-9 counterparts like to sink their teeth into a good chew toy or rubber ball, Jake's a no nonsense kind of dog. If he does a good job, his partner better give up the Scooby Snack - and fast. During the toughest days following Sept. 11, 2001, Woodard tried to find as many excuses as possible to give him extra treats.

"That way he'd feel a little better about being out working instead of doing what he wanted to do - sleep," Woodard said.

Meanwhile, with Stop-Loss behind him, Jake is adjusting to life with the Demers family - Steve, Elaine, Amanda and Steve, Jr.

But just like the dreaded uncle who comes to visit and never leaves, Jake's has his own routine and a few bad habits, too.

He spends most of his time doing what most retirees wish they could do - eating and sleeping. He curls up on the couch with the family setting a scene even Norman Rockwell would love to paint.

"We adore him," Demers said. "Jake deserves nothing less after faithfully serving his country for such a long portion of his life."

"Being the only beagle serving in the Air Force is no small claim to fame - at least in a dog's world," Woodard said.

*dog years

Winter Driving Tips

By TSgt Christopher Davis
821 ABG/SE with National
Safety Council

Tis' the season for snow and ice, slipping and sliding... and winter driving. Now is the time to get keep your government vehicles in good order. Make sure your "little buddy" heater is in good working order and the socket to your engine block heater is in good condition. Inspect your wiper blades. Carry your storm gear whenever you leave base.

Of all the things you can do to make winter driving less stressful, giving yourself a little more time is the most important. More time to get to and from work and more time to stop when you're on the road. Going slower is the key to safe driving on slippery roads, and it's pretty hard to go slower when you're in a race with the clock. Remember the base speed

limit is 25 mph.

The biggest hazard of winter driving is slippery roads - caused by ice or slushy snow. Remember how far it takes to bring your car to a stop on dry roads? In winter conditions, allow at least 3 times that distance to reach a full stop and avoid skidding. This means your safe distance behind the car in front of your should be 3 times as far. And you must begin braking 3 times as far away from the stoplight or corner where you turn. Reduce the danger of skidding by driving more slowly and by pumping the brakes as you slow down for a turn rather than holding them down. Use low gears on slick surfaces, especially hills and curves. Test your brakes frequently and never tailgate. Also be careful on Thule's well-traveled intersections since they tend to be most dangerous.

If in spite of your precautions you find yourself beginning to skid, **DO NOT SLAM ON THE BRAKE**. Instead, take your foot off the accelerator and gently turn your car in the direction you want your front wheels to go. Hitting the brakes or turning sharply will only lock you into a skid. If you can't get control of your car it is better to steer into a snow bank or fence than to risk a collision in traffic.

Visibility is another big hazard of winter driving. In heavy snow, keep your lights on. Stop and clean your windshield and lights if necessary.

To sum up: keep your car or truck in top shape, allow extra time and space on the road, and listen to the weather forecast - sometimes the best winter driving strategy is to stay home.

New Bridge for Thule



On Thursday, 31 October, Team Thule officially unveiled the new steel bridge. This bridge was quite important since another bridge at the different location was washed out during the summer.



Thule Memories From 1954-55

By Mr. Al Clark, Former Thule Resident

My turn. I was stationed at Thule August '54 to '55 in the 74th FIS. I was an aircraft instrument specialist. Our hanger was the end one next to the alert hanger.

Things sure have changed. Of course the base had only been in operation for a year. The nice thing weren't there yet.

We had KOLD AM, no FM yet. TV arrived not long before I left, but only in the rec hall, 1 TV. The wide screen was installed sometime after my arrival, but somebody misplaced the wide screen lens. All our movies were old up until then. Cigarettes were WWII issue wrapped in wax paper. You had to tamp them down before you opened the pack, otherwise the tobacco would fall out.

Our rations for Phase winds were arctic rations also from WWII. We had no way to heat them as we weren't allowed to have electric stoves. We had one for a while until we got caught.

After seeing your web site I almost considered reenlisting. Think a 70 year old would be considered?

I have scanned all of the slides I took while there. Maybe they will give you some idea of what it was back then. A CD of them may be in the museum. I was invited to come back for the 50th anniversary but couldn't make it. Here is the url for my site if you are interested.

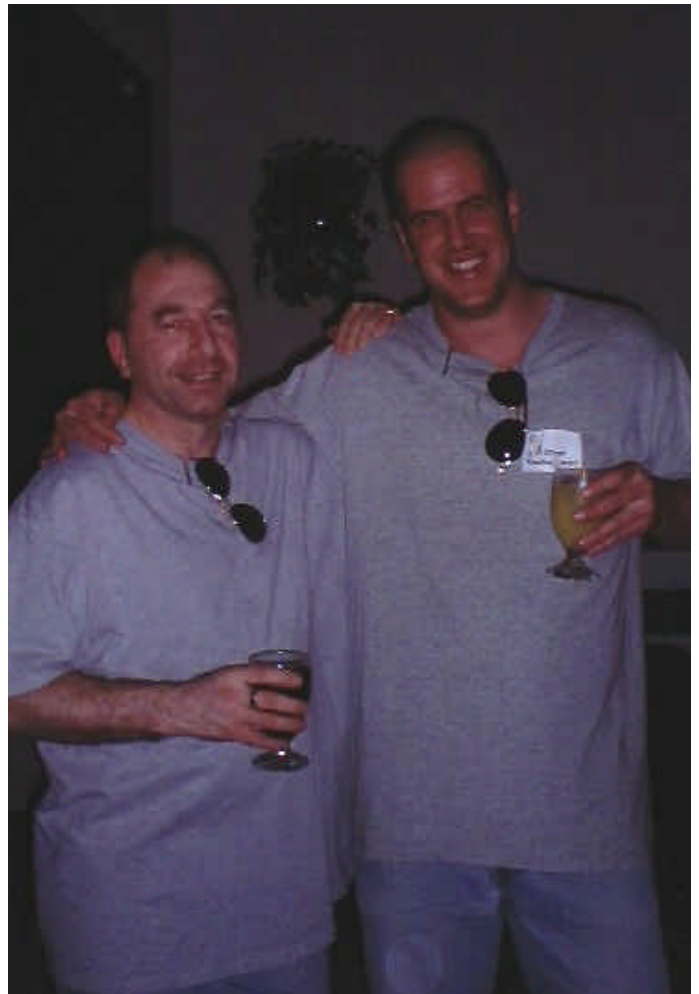
<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/alclark5/index.htm>



BOO!

Witch's brew and crazy costumes were the hallmark of the Top of the World Club Halloween party on 26 October. The party had a good turn out with a number of creative ideas on display. The only question on some folks' minds is where all the materials came from?

Many had suspected that MSgt Timothy Cordy, 821 SPTS/LG, and Arm Eric Forrester, 821 SPTS/MSA, might be related, but it was confirmed on Halloween night when they came dressed as twins!



A full cast of characters came out on the weekend before Halloween to the TOW club including gangster, pirates and belly dancers!

Is that a brown bear guarding the door at the TOW club? I thought that they only had polar bears in Greenland...



Lt Col Robert Orwig, 821 SPTS/CC, didn't expect to get this type of attention at the Kissing Booth. The winners of the TOW club costume contest, Capt Brady Vaira, 821 SPTS/OS, and Capt Greg Marty, 821 ABG/CCE, were really motivated to win.



Nothing says Halloween like the last minute costume idea. These two gentlemen (who will remain unnamed) chose to sport their rendition of the classic nursery rhyme.

Yeager Breaks Sound Barrier For Last Time

By Leigh Anne Bierstine
Air Force Flight Test Center
Public Affairs

A viation legend and retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager gave the F-15 Eagle one last ride Oct. 26, bringing his 60-year career flying military aircraft to a close in front of thousands of fans at the open house and air show.

Yeager, with Edwards test pilot Lt. Col. Troy Fontaine in the back seat, opened the event by climbing to just over 30,000 feet and impressed the crowd with his infamous sonic boom.

Yeager first broke the sound barrier at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., in October 1947 when he accelerated his rocket-powered Bell X-1 to the speed of Mach 1.06 and shattered the myth of the sound barrier forever.

The crowd hushed as Yeager landed and taxied under an archway of water gushing from two Edwards fire trucks per Air Force tradition. For his final military flight, Yeager was accompanied in the air by longtime friend and colleague, retired Maj. Gen. Joe Engle, flying his own F-15. The two legendary test pilots have been flying together for decades.

"This is a fun day for us because we get to fly good airplanes and do something we've loved to do for some time," Yeager said.

The general announced earlier this year that 60 years of mili-

tary flying is long enough.

"Now is a good time," said Yeager. "I've had a heck of good time and very few people get exposed to the things I've been exposed to. I'll keep on flying P-51s and light stuff, but I just feel it's time to quit."

Fans young and old were pleased with the opening flights. Sixteen-year-old Jennifer Thompson attended the air show with her family from Martinez, Calif.

"I was standing in the hangar when General Yeager flew by," Thompson said. "He shook the whole hangar. It was really cool."

After retiring from the Air Force in 1975 with more than 34 years of service, including combat in World War II and Vietnam, Yeager served as a consultant at the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School.

Besides the 40 years he spent flying with his colleagues at Edwards, the general recalled some of his most memorable times as those when he was flying combat missions.

"That is why the Air Force paid me," said Yeager of his combat time. "That's how I've always looked at it. Flying was my job." Yeager said being scared was a waste of time.

"If you can't do anything about the outcome of something, forget it," Yeager said. "Instead, you better concentrate on staying alive where you are. It's just plain stupid to get so scared that it affects

U.S. Air Force photo Retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager salutes Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson, commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., after exiting an F-15 Eagle on Oct. 26 at the base's open house and air show. The flight marked the close of Yeager's 60-year career flying military aircraft.



your performance."

Before his final military flight, the 79-year-old had some advice for pilots starting out. While he admitted having plenty of close calls, the general said good pilots know their equipment and their limitations.

"It's not being a good pilot that keeps you alive," he said. "What keeps you alive is knowing your airplane. I always wanted to know more about the airplane and its ejection seat than the guys who made them."

"I want the [an aircraft] that kills the best with the least amount of risk to me," said Yeager. "That's the facts of life and that's why you wear the uniform."

Cold Ca\$h Advice

AFSPC Cracks Down on Gov't Credit Card Abuse

By 2nd Lt Julie A. Tucker
AFSPC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Approximately 7,300 Air Force Space Command members will see their government charge card accounts axed by the end of the October.

After a six-month investigation on fraud and misuse, the Department of Defense is canceling 400,000 cards in an attempt to decrease abuse.

However, not all of those cancellations are the result of abuse.

"If you're not traveling very often, then you don't need an open account," said Jan Williamson, chief of the audit and training branch for AFSPC.

Infrequent travelers will be exempt from the requirement to use the charge card for official travel, according to guidelines set by Department of Defense finance. They can use their personal cards and be reimbursed by the military.

The DoD travel charge card program manager will review listings of accounts every six months and terminate those which have not been used in the previous 12 months.

"The issue is not to eliminate the cards—that's going backward. What we've got to do is prevent misuse," stressed the DoD comptroller, Dov S. Zakheim.

Implementing this policy will result in a much cleaner cardholder database, lessening the chance and percentage of fraud and delinquencies, explained Michael Montelongo, assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management and comptroller.

A recent Office of the Secretary of Defense metric standard established the Government Travel Card Program delinquency rate at 4.5 percent. The rate for AFSPC is 3.53 percent.

Troops to Teachers!

By MSgt Laura Velasquez
21 SW/CAA

The worst teacher shortage ever is now approaching, according to figures compiled by the National Education Association. Reserve component personnel can help alleviate the problem.

In January 2002, the Troops to Teachers program expanded. Under the program, the U.S. Department of Education and the Defense Department team up to help qualified service members transition from the military to teaching careers.

The Troops to Teachers program is designed to recruit quality teachers for schools serving low-income families and to relieve teacher shortages.

If you are interested in still serving your country and discovering a new and rewarding career in teaching, access www.ProudToServeAgain.com, the Troops to Teachers web site, for more information.

November Birthdays

A1C Xavier Boyd
Brian James
SMSgt Bobby Posey
TSgt Michael Pinski
MSgt Vincent Anderson
SrA Joni Swearson
TSgt Paul Brassfield

821 SFS
821 SFS
821 SPTS/OS
821 SPTS/OS
821 SPTS/CE
821 SFS
821 SPTS/OS

1 Nov
12 Nov
15 Nov
21 Nov
26 Nov
26 Nov
27 Nov

Thule Air Base 3rd Quarterly Award Winners

In early October, Thule Air Base held the first quarterly Base Award Luncheon. The base level awards program is designed to recognize excellence and all military members of the base are eligible to participate in the competition.

The award winners received wooden plaques with a laser inscription of a traditional Thule Air Base

patch and a medal plate with the winner's name. The winner in the Airman category receives use of an extended van when it is not needed for mission requirements.

Finally, the winners are recognized at a luncheon. The First Sergeant is planning a banquet in January for the annual winners.



SNCO of Quarter
SMSgt Bobby Posey
821 SPTS/OS



NCO of the Quarter
TSgt Tracy Patterson
Det 3



Airman of the Quarter
SrA Robert Roe
12 SWS/DOO

CGO of the Quarter Capt Elizabeth Ferrill 821 SPTS/SC (not present at ceremony)

Additional Winners

821 ABG: Capt Elizabeth Ferrill, CGO of the Qtr; SMSgt Bobby Posey, SNCO of Qtr; SSgt Tana Chevalier, NCO of the Qtr; SrA Annalisa Hernandez, Airman of the Qtr.

821 SPTS: Capt Elizabeth Ferrill, CGO of the Qtr; SMSgt Bobby Posey, SNCO of Qtr; SSgt Tana Chevalier, NCO of the Qtr; SrA Annalisa Hernandez, Airman of the Qtr.

821 SFS: SSgt Charles Matthews, NCO of the Qtr; SrA Donald McCants, Airman of the Qtr.

12 SWS: Capt Raymond Kellerman, CGO of the Qtr; SSgt Shawn Berndt, NCO of the Qtr; SrA Robert Roe, Airman of the Qtr.

Det 3: Capt Michael "Misha" Collier, CGO of the Qtr, 22nd Space Operations Squadron.

THULE AIR BASE SALUTES OPERATION TOASTY TOES

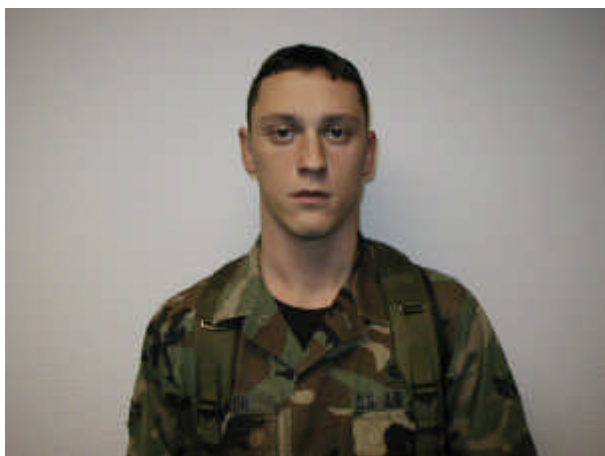


For many years, the residents of Thule Air Base have been lucky enough to receive Toasty Toes from a group of knitters in the United States. The "toes" are actually hand knitted

footies that are designed to keep us all warm during the winter months. This pictures was designed to show our appreciation to the hard-working woman who make Toasty Toes a reality!



ARCTIC SPOTLIGHT



A1C Laurence Taylor

LAST BASE: This is my first base.

NEXT BASE: Aviano AB, Italy

ORIGINALLY FROM: Greenville, North Carolina

MY JOB TITLE: Security Forces Patrolman

WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT MY JOB: In my job I will get to travel to a lot of different places that I thought I would never go to.

THULE GOALS: One of my goals is to get my CDC's out of the way and another goal is not to freeze to death while I am here.

INTERESTING FACTS: I have broken my ankle 3 times playing soccer and sometimes when I walk it cracks non stop. I really hate the Yankees and if baseball got rid of them I wouldn't be heartbroken about it.

IF YOU COULD BE A COMMANDER FOR A DAY WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THE AIR FORCE: I would promote military members faster.

HERO: My heroes are my grandparents. Ever since I was little I have always looked up to them and they always been there for me no matter what.

FAVORITE MUSIC/SPORTS TEAM/ACTRESS: I like all kinds of music, but my favorite band is Blink 182. My favorite pro football team is the Carolina Panthers, college football is the Miami Hurricanes, and pro baseball is the Florida Marlins. My favorite actress is Jennifer Love Hewitt.

The Last Word

Bloodless Coup D'Etat



Has anyone noticed that Col Christensen hasn't been around much recently? Some say that he might have become a professional fantasy football pundit. Others wonder about that funny smell coming from his quarters.

But never fear, Thule is in the good, yet extremely firm, hands of Lt Col Robert Orwig (or Supreme Despot of the Northern Tier, as he prefers to be called). In early October, SDNT Orwig seized power using the relatively peaceful method of "camping out in the boss' office." Left unchallenged by the other local commanders and contractor site managers, everyone pretty much assumed that SDNT Orwig was now in charge.

While some members of "Team Thule" have been receiving emails — supposedly from Col Christensen himself — we at the Thule Times investigated and now think that these emails are part of SDNT command staff's (headed by TSgt Dan Hall, SDNT/CCA) misinformation campaign to keep the local populous in the dark. Did anybody call Amnesty International yet?

Hooters Girls Rock Thule

Cheerleaders? What cheerleaders? Most Thule residents don't even remember the Arizona Cardinals cheerleaders visit back in July. This is probably because of the two anonymous Hooters' Girls that graced Thule with there presence in late October.

Decked out in full Hooters' gear, the girls entertained young and old alike at the TOW Club Halloween party. When asked if they felt "funny" being the only guests NOT in costume, Hooter 1 said, "Oh no, honey, we just love that we can bring a little joy to US troops stationed overseas. We know that they just don't get to see fine women like us very often." Speaking for the women of Thule, we'd have to say that she's right!



F5 Tornado Strikes Largest Trailer Park North of the Arctic Circle

"I was just fixin' dinner," said Lurlene, resident of Flattop #1-4-6, "When the walls started to shake." Lurlene, donned her blue shower cap and floral moo-moo promptly heading outside to see what all the commotion was about. To her astonishment, a funnel shaped cloud had formed above her home. "I always knew that it was risky to live in such a large trailer park. But I thought that I would be okay until I saw the poor musk-oxen flyin' through the air. I'm gonna move back to Oklahoma where it is safer."

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors to this paper and are not to be considered an official expression by the 821st Air Base Group, 12th Space Warning Squadron, Department of the Air Force, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, or the Department of Defense.

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